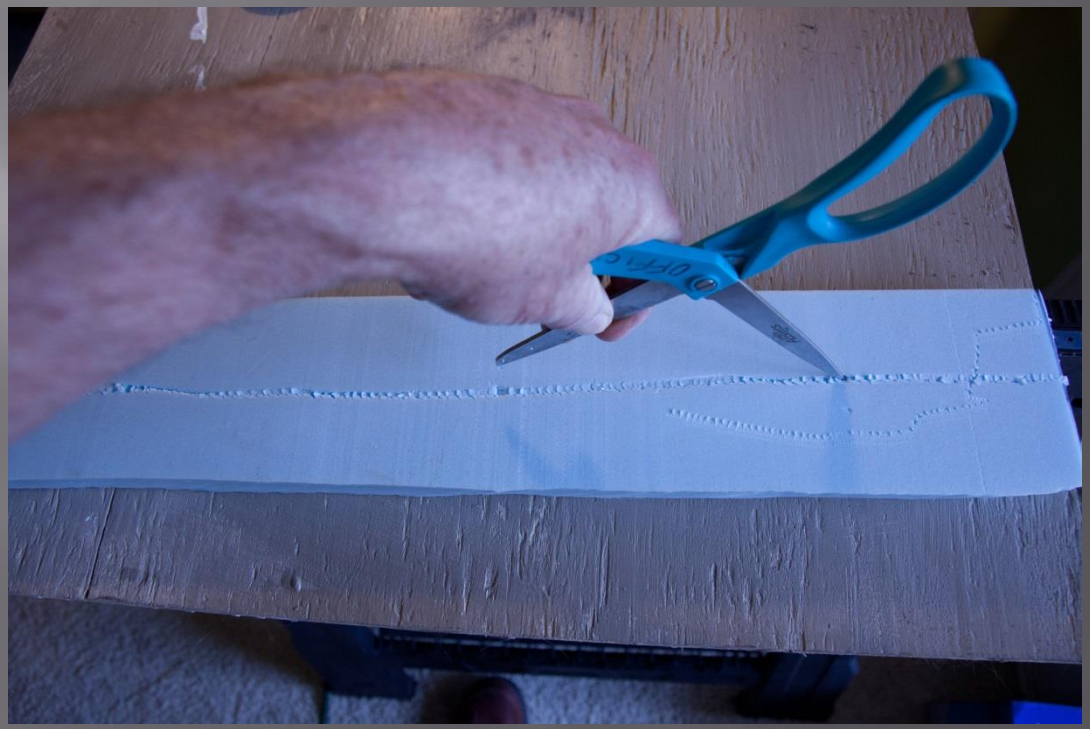
Highways for TxCar

- Installing Following Wire

Making a Test Road

1” Blue Insulation Foam; Scissors; Wire; Packing Tape

Score the foam with something to create a linear depression for the wire to lay in. Place the wire in the depression and tape with packing tape, then paint with any color you like to give the tape tooth. As long as you are running on a flat elevation, the car should follow the wire.



Straight Leg of Test Road

This paint is Kaki color which makes a nice concrete effect. We could only find it at Walmart.

I suggest a dog bone with some “S” curves for configuring your test road.

Road One
(The Least Costly)

- Using .015 wire; $0.48 for 3 feet
- Masonite board; $10 for 4 x 8 sheet
- Wire Groove cutting tool – Dremel with 90 degree drive; $29 (angle drive) or Faller tool ($135).
- Woodland Scenic Smooth It; $6; Faller Acrylmasse (kit component) or Plaster (cheapest).
- Railroad cork bed for plaster containment

Dremel with 90

This will require something to set the depth of the cut. It has been suggested using a dowel laid perpendicular to the cutting blade which will provide something for the cutting shaft to ride on. You'll have to experiment with the different size of dowels to find one that works with your blade.

Faller Cutter

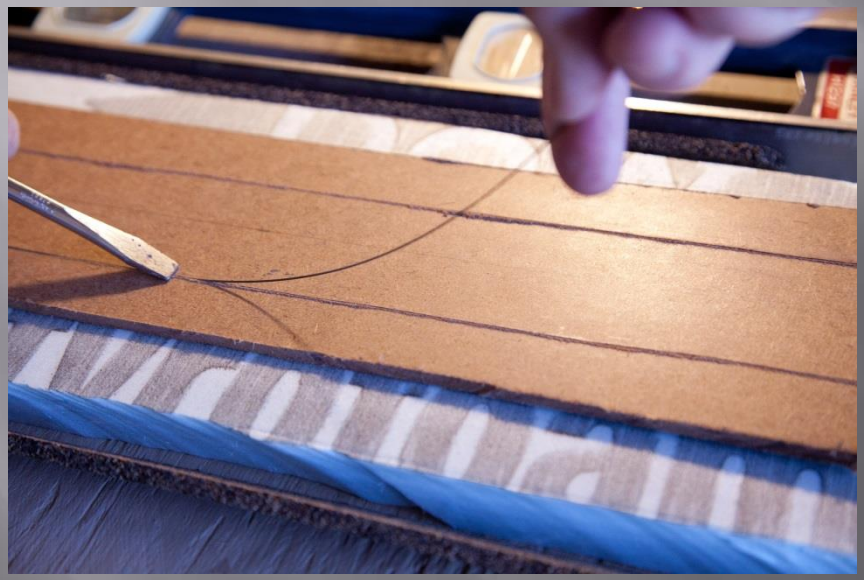
Groove Cutting in 1/8 “ Masonite

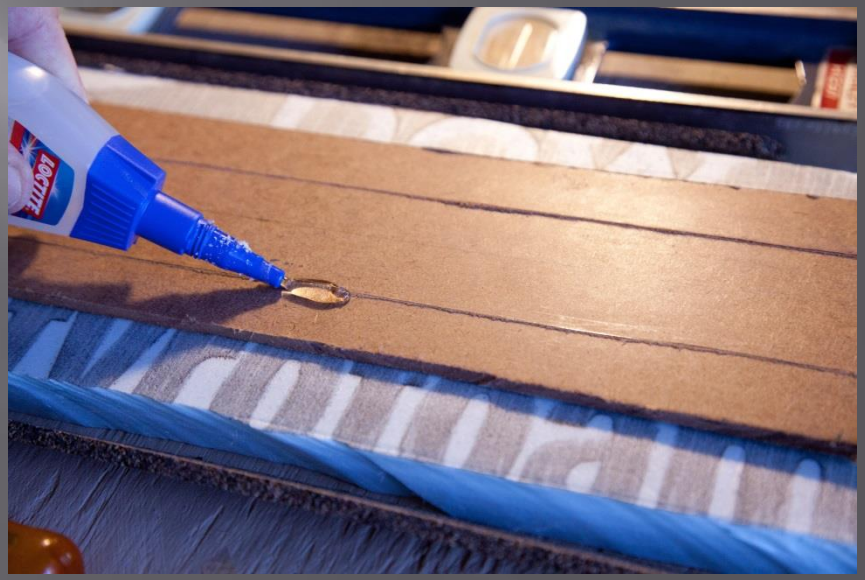
This tool cuts a groove that a .015 wire will fit in snuggly. A snug fit will make installation much easier because some wire has a tendency to curl so if the fit it tight, the groove helps hold the wire in place while you add glue. Weights at intervals will give you extra hands or free up the ones you are using.

Wire Installation

USE A SCREW DRIVER

LOCKTITE FROM HOBBY LOBBY





A Small Bead of CA – Then Spread

After glue dries, go back and glue ends where clamp is.

Adding Faller Acrylmasse

Note that I have added roadbed to each side of the 1/8 inch Masonite to contain the thin road filler. The roadbed gives about 1/16 inch lip to the edge of the Masonite. This filler product, Acrylmasse, behaves much as regular plaster or the Woodland Scenic Smooth It product used later.

Acrylmasse

www.stangel.pl

Road Two

Using "Squiggles"

Advantage:

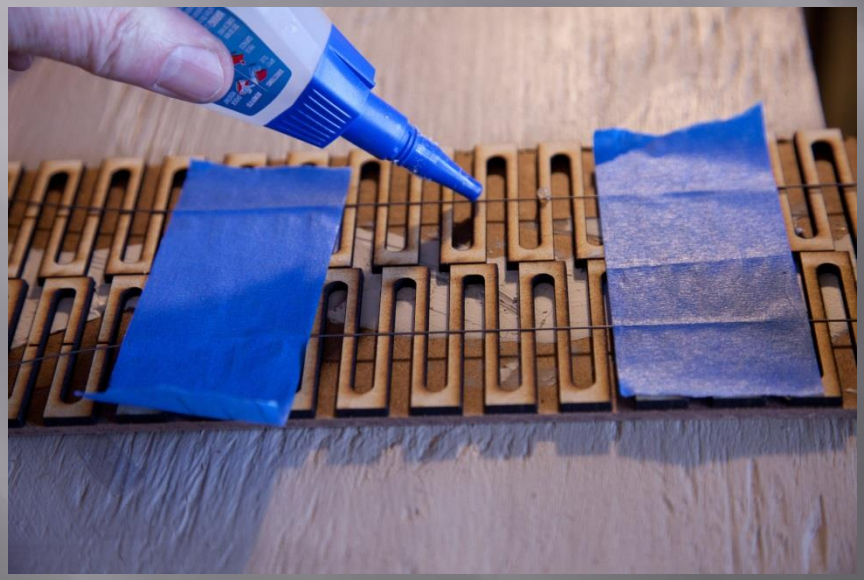
- Makes turns uniform
- Easy to fit together
- No groove cutting required so, no tool to buy.
- Great for small road system.
- Completed 20' road (one direction) for under $75.

Disadvantage:

- Adds expense (twenty linear feet, $50). Twenty feet in both directions - $100.
- Time consuming installation.

Steps One and Two

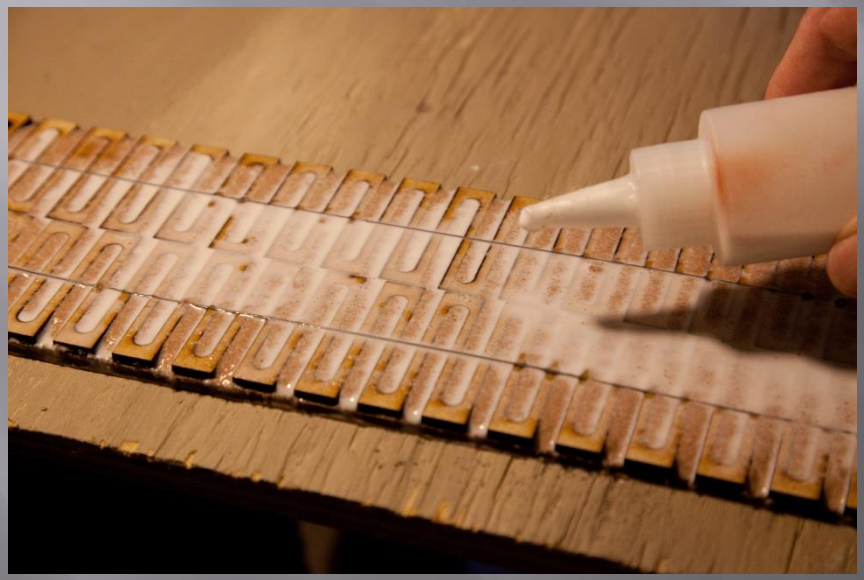
WIRE BEING GLUED



SAND FILLER

Steps Three and Four

ADDING 50/50 GLUE



POURING SMOOTH IT

Step Five

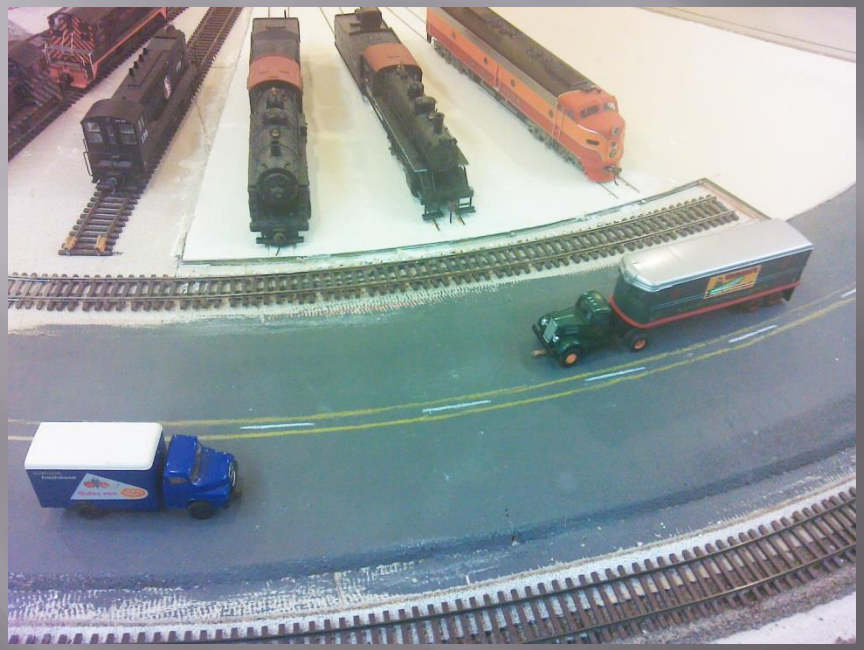
SAND ABSORBS FILLER

COLORED LAYER ADDED

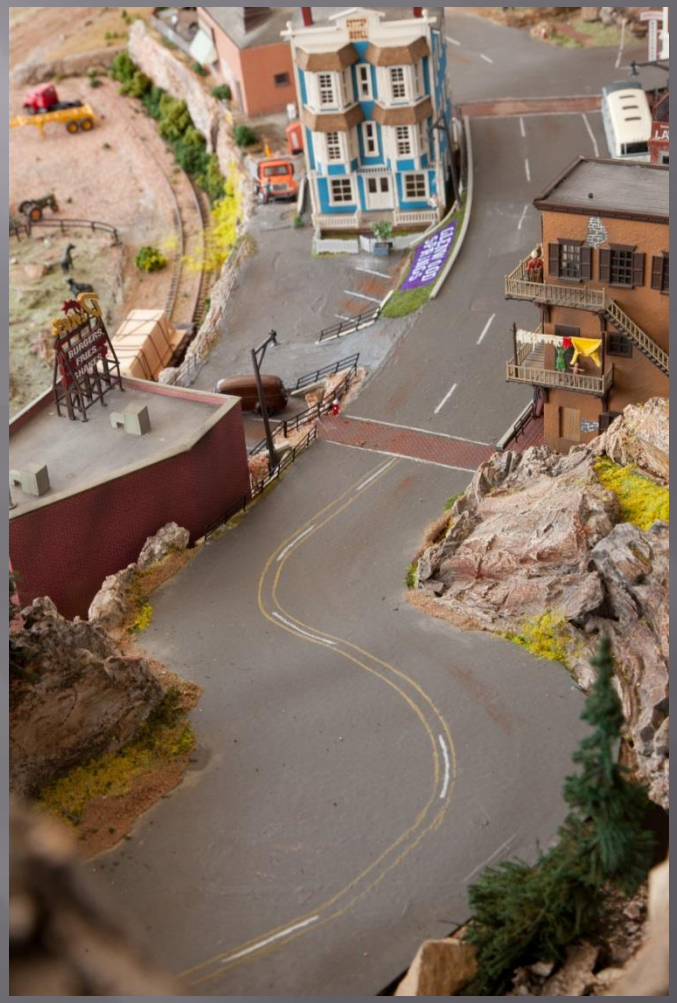
Last Step is Sanding

Of course with all the fillers, sanding is required to get a smooth surface for the vehicles to travel upon. A smooth surface will enhance trouble free operations.

Nice Curves



Road Three



Using Magnetic Bands and Lexan Road Covering

Advantages:

- Trouble free operation
- Smoother road surface
- Quick and easy installation
- Vehicle tongue will not mar surface because magnet rides above roadway.

Disadvantages:

- Groove must be cut by router or Dremel Saw Max – tool costs about $90.
- Magnetic Band costs about .50 per linear foot.
- Lexan costs $37 for a 4x8 sheet.

HEATER HEATING OILS

WOOD & PLASTIC
DREMEL
SAW-MAX

Dremel Saw Max

This tool comes with a flush cut blasé plus a regular blade. After purchasing a second regular blade, replace the flush cut blade with the TWO regular blades. This will provide a 3.5mm wide groove to allow the magnetic band to be installed.

Groove Depth

By trial and error on a test board such as the one seen in the background, adjust the shoe of the tool to achieve a cut measuring around 1.5 mm in depth. This photo shows a 1.68 mm measurement which was satisfactory. The two grooves in the Masonite were cut 1″ from the center line of the 4 and ¼ inch strip. The width can vary according to your application, e.g., country road, city street, major freeway, etc.

Adding the Magnetic Band

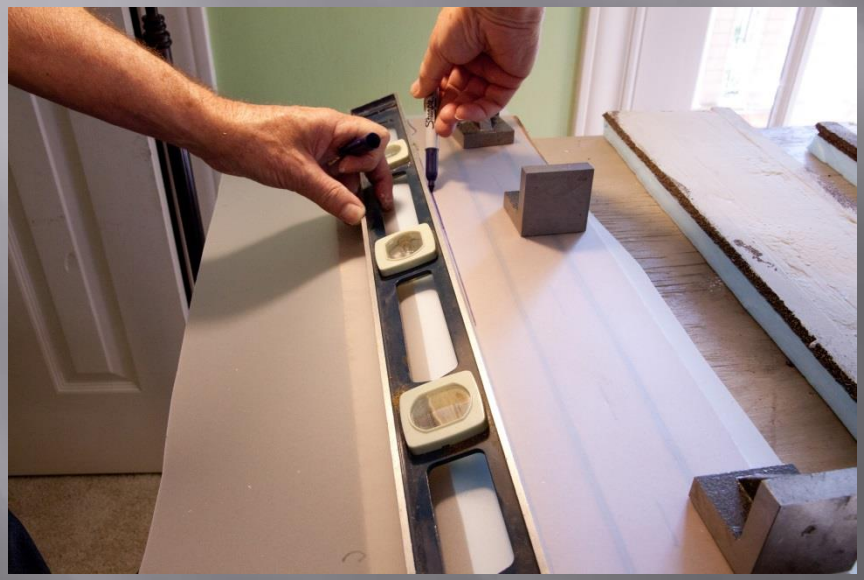
White glue was used to cement the magnetic band in place after the grooves were cut. The bands are 3mm wide and 1 mm thick. Again the grooves were cut 1″ from center line.

Magnetic Band pressed into groove (no tool necessary to hold it in place because the band is very pliable).

Lexan is Sized to Road

CLEAR MATERIAL MAKES MARKING/CUTTING EASY

CUT ALONG MARKS WITH SCISSORS



Applying Adhesive

TOOTH SIDE GOES UP

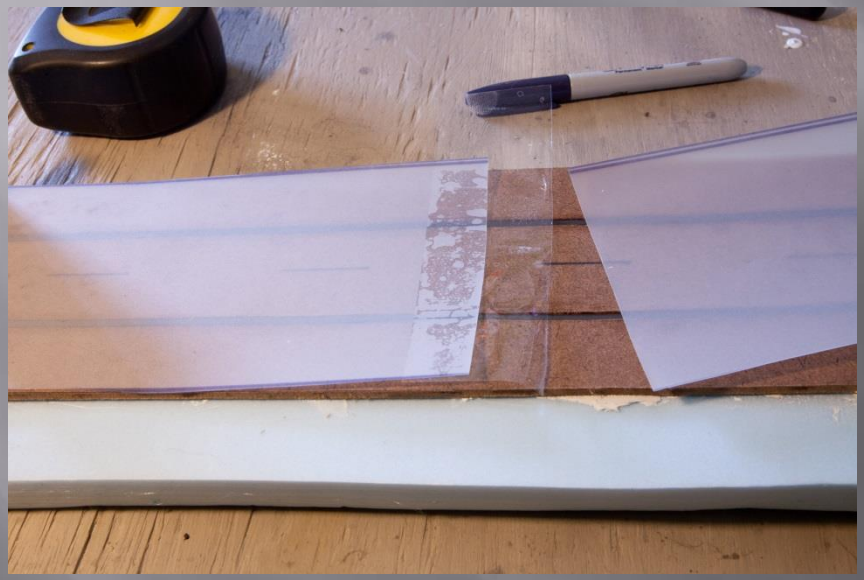
SMOOTH SIDE IS ADHERED TO MASONITE

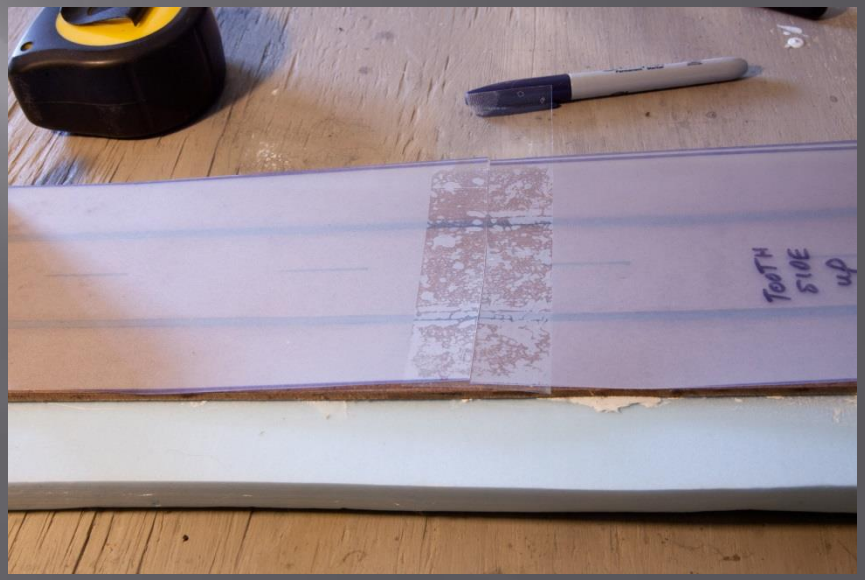
I used Loctite but 3M is just as good.

Ease of Adding Additional Sections

ADD PACKING TAPE TO THE BACKSIDE (STICKY SIDE UP) OF THE LEXAN.

SIMPLY ALIGN SECOND PIECE TO FIRST AND PRESS TO PACKING TAPE.





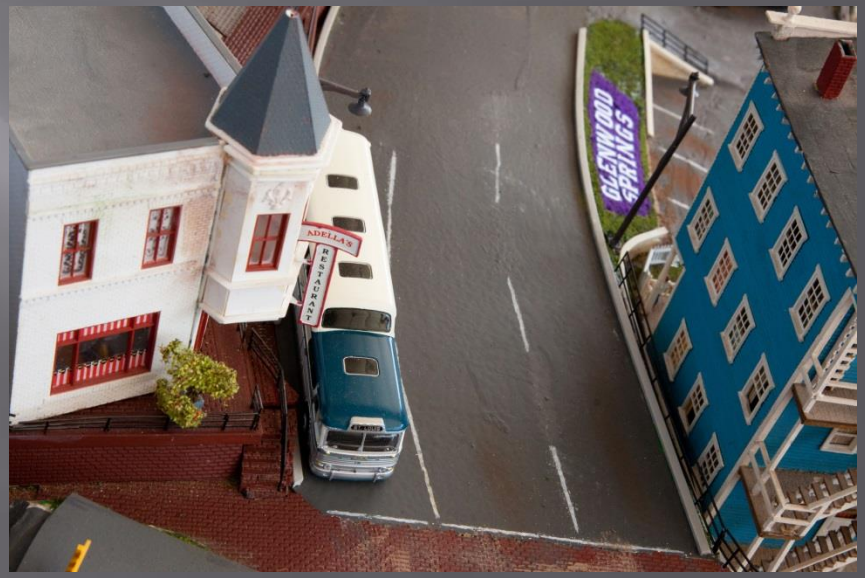
Asphalt Grey Paint

THE PAINT IS APPLIED TO THE "TOOTH" SIDE

USING A ROLLER ADDS MORE SURFACE TEXTURE

Left is Behr N520-6 and Right is Rust-Oleum both from Home Depot

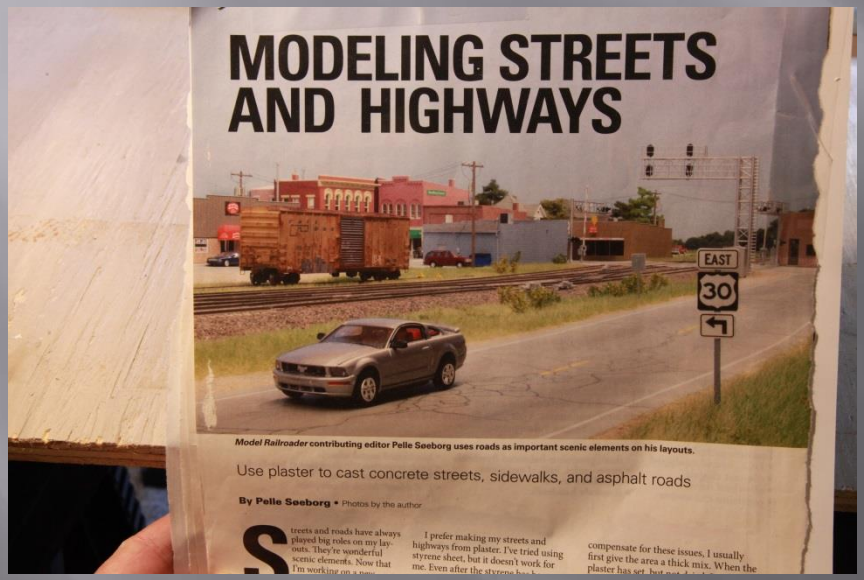
All this roadway is Lexan



For More Details on Roads Read

PELLE SEEBORG

AUG 2015, MODEL RAILROADER



MODELING STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

Model Railroader contributing editor Pelle Seeborg uses roads as important scenic elements on his layouts.

Use plaster to cast concrete streets, sidewalks, and asphalt roads

By Pelle Seeborg • Photos by the author

Streets and roads have always played big roles on my layouts. They're wonderful scenic elements. Now that I'm working on a new

I prefer making my streets and highways from plaster. I've tried using styrene sheet, but it doesn't work for me. Even after the styrene has

compensate for these issues, I usually first give the area a thick mix. When the plaster has set, but

I started the paving project with the main street. I mixed a small portion Woodland Scenics Smooth-It plaster with water and poured it along the track at the grade crossing.

Temporary forms

Thick first layer of plaster

I then mixed a bigger portion of plaster and poured it on the rest of the street. Two narrow cork across the side streets help

I spread the plaster with a piece of styrene. Keeping the styrene wet helps reduce the amount of plaster that sticks to the spreader.

Temporary forms

Cork under buildings

Spreader wide enough to reach across road

Using a wide piece of styrene, I level the plaster across the whole road at once. The spreader rests on the Paving Tape or cork that I used to set the edges of the road.

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Question: Who knows what year and what happened to the stop sign in the U. S.?

Evolution of Highway Markings U.S.

- http://ceprofs.civil.tamu.edu/ghawkins/MUTCD-History_files/MUTCDmarkingcolorevolution.pdf

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